

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 07049 271020Z

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 ONY-00 SS-14 /019 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4840

S E C R E T KINSHASA 7049

LIMDIS

FOR AF ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, US

SUBJECT: THOUGHTS ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

REF: STATE 173022

1. I APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS CONTAINED REFTEL. I DO NOT THINK THEY ARE MUCH DIFFERENT FROM MINE INsofar AS WE AGREE THAT MOBUTU MUST BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND WE ARE APPLYING DIFFERENT, MORE DISCERNING STANDARDS IN DETERMINING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS REGIME. WHERE WE MAY DIFFER IS IN DECIDING HOW BEST TO GET THIS POINT ACROSS WHILE STILL PROTECTING OUR CONSIDERABLE INTERESTS IN THIS COUNTRY.

2. I DID NOT RECOMMEND THAT NGUZA SEE THE PRESIDENT SIMPLY TO PLACATE MOBUTU OR FLATTER HIS EGO. AN APPOINTMENT WOULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE SERVED MOBUTU'S OWN INTERESTS; BUT, MORE IMPORTANT, I BELIEVED IT OFFERED US AN UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY TO IMPRESS UPON MOBUTU THAT WE ARE REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT HOW HE RUNS HIS COUNTRY, TREATS HIS PEOPLE, AND FOLLOWS THROUGH ON WHAT COULD RPT COULD BE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT AND BADLY-NEEDED REFORMS ZAIRE HAS SEEN IN MANY YEARS. WHILE THESE POINTS CAN, OF COURSE, BE MADE EFFECTIVELY BY THE SECRETARY AND OTHERS IN THE DEPARTMENT, THE FACT REMAINS THAT A MESSAGE COMING DIRECTLY FROM THE U.S.

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PRESIDENT IS BOUND TO HAVE THE GREATEST IMPACT. AS FOR NGUZA, HE IS ABOUT THE MOST RESPECTED AND INTELLIGENT OFFICIAL IN THE GOVERNMENT. EQUALLY IMPORTANT, HE IS ONE OF THE VERY FEW WHO ARE IN A POSITION TO INFLUENCE MOBUTU AND EVEN FEWER WHO ARE NOT AFRAID TO PASS ON TO HIM HARD TRUTHS, UNEMBELLISHED.

3. MY OTHER REASON FOR RECOMMENDING AN APPOINTMENT WAS, FRANKLY,

TO PROTECT OUR SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS HERE. LIKE IT OR NOT, MOBUTU IS AN EXTRAORDINARILY SENSITIVE INDIVIDUAL WHO PUTS GREAT STOCK IN PERSONAL RELATIONS. ALSO, WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT, MOBUTU IS THE ONLY ONE IN THIS COUNTRY WHO MAKES IMPORTANT DECISIONS. HENCE IT IS FREQUENTLY NECESSARY TO GO DIRECTLY TO MOBUTU, BE IT TO SEEK HIS URGENT INTERVENTION WITH AMIN ON BEHALF OF AMERICANS IN UGANDA, OR TO GET OUR OIL COMPANIES BACK IN BUSINESS IN THE FACE OF BELGIAN AND FRENCH COMPETITION. UNLIKE MOST OF MY COLLEAGUES, I HAVE ALWAYS HAD ACCESS TO HIM FOR SUCH MATTERS AND GENERALLY HE HAS RESPONDED WELL. BUT HIS PRIDE IS SUCH THAT WE CANNOT EXPECT TO MAINTAIN THIS PRIVILEGED POSITION WITHOUT SOME DEGREE OF RECIPROCITY. I BELIEVED AN APPOINTMENT FOR NGUZA WOULD HAVE SERVED TO MAINTAIN BOTH OUR READY ACCESS TO AND INFLUENCE WITH MOBUTU, SO IMPORTANT AS THIS IS TO GETTING ANY BUSINESS DONE HERE.

4. FINALLY, IF WE ARE CONCERNED THAT MOBUTU UNDERSTAND HIS POSITION WITH US HAS CHANGED, LET ME ASSURE YOU HE IS UNDER NO ILLUSION ON THIS SCORE. SHABA ALONE BROUGHT THIS HOME TO HIM CLEARLY AND PAINFULLY. THE SAME MESSAGE WILL BE EVIDENT AS WE HENCEFORTH MEASURE OUR ASSISTANCE MORE CAREFULLY AGAINST HIS OWN PERFORMANCE, AND AS SOME OF OUR AID LEVELS INEVITABLY DECLINE FROM WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN. I FULLY SUPPORT THIS NEW POSTURE. BUT IN DETERMINING OUR TACTICS WE SHOULD WEIGH THEM CAREFULLY TO BE SURE THEY SERVE RATHER THAN NEEDLESSLY IMPAIR OUR OWN INTERESTS IN ZAIRE. MY CONCERN IS NOT WHETHER I WILL
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BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH MOBUTU, WHICH IS DIFFICULT ENOUGH WITH SOMEONE OF HIS ILK UNDER THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES; RATHER IT IS THAT WE DEAL WITH MOBUTU WITH THE RIGHT MIXTURE OF FIRMNESS AND ENCOURAGEMENT THAT, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, WILL ELICIT FROM HIM THE POSITIVE, RATIONAL RESPONSES THAT ARE NECESSARY TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR POLICY OBJECTIVES HERE. THIS IS A MATTER OF JUDGMENT, AND I OF COURSE RESPECT AND ACCEPT YOUR DECISION WITH REGARD TO NGUZA'S VISIT.
CUTLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
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From: KINSHASA
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